

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4157

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5609

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PLO UN LE UK

SUBJECT: UN AGENCIES AND OFFICES IN BEIRUT CONSIDERING DEMARCHE
TO GOL IN WAKE OF UNRWA EMPLOYEE'S MURDER

REF: LONDON 6448

1. EMBOFF, IN VISIT TO UNRWA HEADQUARTERS APR 30,
LEARNED THAT UNRWA COMGEN RENNIE WAS THEN CHAIRING
SESSION OF HEADS OF ALL UN AGENCIES AND OFFICES REPRESENTED
IN BEIRUT. SUBJECT OF MEETING WAS DETERIORATING SECURITY
SITUATION HERE, PARTICULARLY MURDER APR 26 OF BRITISH
NATIONAL KEITH WAUGH, AN UNRWA EMPLOYEE, AND RAPING OF
HIS COMPANION, A CANADIAN TEACHER.

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2. UNRWA DEPUTY COMGEN MCELHINEY, WHO WAS NOT ATTENDING ABOVE MEETING, TOLD EMBOFF OF GROWING CONCERN AMONG LOCAL UN COMMUNITY THAT GOL NOT RPT NOT PROVIDING UN OFFICIALS ADEQUATE PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED GOL PROBABLY NOT CAPABLE OF ASSURING THEIR SECURITY FULLY, HE THOUGHT UN COMMUNITY IS LIKELY TO DECIDE ON JOINT DEMARCHE TO GOL TO DEMAND WHATEVER INCREASED PROTECTION GOL CAN PROVIDE.

3. COMMENT: MURDER OF WAUGH, WHICH WIDELY REPORTED BY NEWS AGENCIES, IS SYMPTOMATIC OF STATE OF INSECURITY PREVAILING HERE GENERALLY AND, PARTICULARLY IN AFTERMATH OF APR 13-17 CLASHES BETWEEN RIGHT-WING PHALANGISTS ON ONE HAND AND FEDAYEEN AND THEIR LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS ON OTHER. ON DAY PRECEDING WAUGH MURDER, LEBANESE CITIZEN AND WIFE WERE ALSO STOPPED (APPARENTLY BY SAME GANG) IN EARLY MORNING HOURS AND WIFE RAPED, ALTHOUGH HER HUSBAND ESCAPED WITH ONLY CUTS AND BRUISES.

4. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY REFTTEL, APPEARS THAT NOT ALL MEMBERS OF GANG WHICH MURDERED WAUGH WERE PALESTINIANS, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL WERE. DURING AND FOLLOWING APR 13-17 FIGHTING BETWEEN PHALANGE AND FEDAYEEN, MANY LOCAL ELEMENTS, SOME CRIMINAL, OTHERS EXTERNALLY-DIRECTED, AND STILL OTHERS PROBABLY RELATED TO PALESTINIAN SPLINTER GROUPS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF FURTHER DETERIORATION IN PUBLIC SECURITY TO PURSUE THEIR ACTIVITIES. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE TO DATE, PLO LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN COOPERATING WITH LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO CONTAIN THIS CRIMINAL VIOLENCE. IN FACT, AS NOTED REFTTEL, MEMBER OF PALESTINE ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND (PASC), PLO MILITARY POLICE, WAS KILLED IN APR 26 GUN BATTLE IN WHICH SOME OF WAUGH'S MURDERERS WERE CAUGHT OR SLAIN.

5. WAUGH'S COLLEAGUES ON UNRWA INTERNATIONAL STAFF BELIEVE HE SHOWED LACK OF PRUDENCE IN DRIVING IN EARLY MORNING HOURS THROUGH QUESTIONABLE AREA OF CITY. HIS FATE NEVERTHELESS ILLUSTRATES DILEMMA WHICH FOREIGN COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS LEBANESE, FACE IN THESE TIMES. WE UNDERSTAND UN AGENCIES LOCATED HERE ARE NOW WARNING THEIR EMPLOYEES ALONG LINES WE

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HAVE ADOPTED--I.E., AVOID CINEMAS, NIGHT CLUBS, ETC., PARTICULARLY LATE AT NIGHT, CONFINE THEIR MOVEMENTS TO RELATIVELY "SECURE" AREAS OF CITY, AND GENERALLY STAY AT HOME AFTER MIDNIGHT, WHEN LAWLESS ELEMENTS RECLAIM CONTROL OF MANY NEIGHBORHOODS.
GODLEY

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